

# TOC H JOURNAL

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## *Jobmastery Writ Large*

TOC H is, or ought to be, different from the other societies or groups of people to which each of us belongs—whether it be a trade union or employers' association, a factory or business, football team, cycling club or discussion circle. All these serve their turn on given occasions of work or leisure, and we should be loth to do without them. The Toc H man and woman, however, know that their membership is a full-time calling; strictly speaking they are never off duty.

Years ago Peter Monic, in *Toc H under Weigh*, said that our movement needed "not fractions of men or abstractions of men, but whole men", and this holds good of both its functions, its fellowship and its service, which are indeed but two aspects of one consistent life. It is easy to see the obligations of our membership in detached fragments, the weekly meeting for fellowship, the one-night-a-week-job as fulfilment of our service. Both have to move outwards to new and larger fields with every opportunity that offers.

So 'Jobmastery' with us ought to mean more than the jobs done at the jobmaster's suggestion. It should become second nature to every member, invading his daily business as well as his leisure time. It is in this larger sense that several articles in the pages that follow belong to jobmastery—the spirit in which those of us engaged in industry, in any grade, should serve what ought to be, and often is not, a fellowship; one way in which we can serve the country, make new friends and learn more of Toc H by holiday-work on the land. How much our service is needed in every large concern of the nation is stressed in another article quoted from a popular national newspaper. Jobmastery knows no little bounds of spare-time hours and appointed places.

# Thoughts on Jobmastery

## II. Toc H in Industry

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*The following article is contributed by TOM BURCHELL, a member of the Central Executive, from the Eastern London Area, who is engaged in industry.*

ONE of my Toc H friends in industrial life has a whimsical but eminently practical habit of bringing me back to earth, from some cold hell of gainfully calculating glee, by making the gesture of rubbing the badge in his coat-lapel. Thus does he minister to my soul by a salutary reminder, and at the same time recall the magic power of another lamp. But even more, he demonstrates the applicability of Toc H in everyday affairs, not confining it to weekly meetings, or Branch jobs, or local welfare committees: it is not a thing apart from one's daily work.

This is good, and furthermore it hints at one of the major problems of society today, the need for wholeness both individually and corporately, for better integration of our life, man for man and man with man. We may well find it hard to recover what we have lost of the Art of Living in a so-called community where the reverse process of disintegration has been developing. Men who so easily as we are doing adopt one set of standards for dealing with our friends, and another for the government, and perhaps for our enemies something between the two; one for the boss and another for our mate, and something else for the shop-steward—do not feel the unity of community, or have much consciousness of the true democracy of common interest, commonly established on the responsibility of every individual. We seem to have exchanged the Highest Common Factor of individual responsibility in a Christian community, for the Lowest Common Denominator of a delegated authority, with a minimum of individual responsibility, which is just the soil for Communism.

We so often think or talk in terms of 'we' and 'they', whether it be of governments, local or national, of firms with whom we are working, of executive committees in some other sphere, that a superficial observer might deduce that we were really using our critical faculty in a way worthy of it as one of the higher functions of the human mind. All too frequently we are just getting to the point at which so many scientists stop—the seemingly satisfying stage when enthusiasm for labelling all the things which we have observed bewitches us into a smug contentment and an utter failure to proceed with the positive tasks ahead. The very custom of referring to Industry as a department of life in which problems exist which should be regarded separately from those of the community as a whole and a man is different from other men, exhibits the same disease of dissection as all the other 'we' and 'they' situations. We talk of capitalism, socialism, industrialism, and even nationalisation, which as systems have no life in themselves, and practically are negative without the vital human factor. And so, although we may see the problems of the society in which we live, we often go down the blind alley of the born buck-passer, where the infant thought 'we' have created with such awful effort dies young, because 'they' are left to deal with what we righteously thought was not our job.

Really constructive effort begins only with personal, individual lives; thrives in proportion as their relationships develop in imaginative understanding; and reaches fulfilment in the creation of the fresh enterprises which this inspires, so that with our concern for integration goes an appreciation also for the need of a more positive outlook. The analytical stage is good because the soul of a community cannot, any more than the soul of any individual in it, go forward without searching to know its faults; but the synthesis is better. It is the logical and complementary sequel, the effort towards reconciliation of the divergent individual issues and personalities, and of these with God. Thinking fairly and loving widely must lead to witnessing humbly and building bravely. This is the true jobmastery.

Men and women in industrial life know that a sense of responsibility and creative purpose is often just what is needed, whether among workpeople, managements, or those "absentee-owners" who are the parts of the family so rarely seen as to be truly strangers. Shareholders and poor relations have sadly enough more than one significant connection, ironical and otherwise, and much might be done to make the reality of their relationships comparable with the responsible owners of a bygone day. And the motto which a learned shop-steward so painstakingly implanted in his flock often really represents the unyielding hardness in a long drawn-out campaign: "*Illegitimi nīl carborundum*—don't let the bastards grind you down!" That there are bar-sinisters on both sides is undoubted, and Toc H members in many a firm wish their own dexterity were greater, for there's a lot of nice work to be done. But every member can build good relations, and use his imagination—the health and wholeness of Christian souls.

Those much-discussed issues, incentive and the profit-motive, have already been linked, where imagination has had fair play, not only to the normal financial spur, but also with the sheer challenge of every man's desire for creative and constructive effort and expression, which is at the same time the driving-force of the artist, and the carpenter, and the founder of great industrial enterprises. For it should be noted that productive establishments are not the field of the "new model Ali Baba" or contact man, who thrives most in the non-productive neighbourhood of the dealer and the opportunist and the careerist. Productive men on the contrary thrive best wherever the normal urge to do and make is linked to the sense of purpose in a job and a clear understanding of its application. That this connection should be made clear is a concern of the wise man; it is this which gives effectiveness to some industrial work in wartime, when the unity of the common cause supports it. If some dull repetitive work which seems to numb the worker's soul will one day be done by a machine, which this very fact stimulates imaginative men to design, it can at least become more bearable if it is

first made reasonable, and has a meaning in the scheme of things. There is more in incentive than money, and the Toc H man in industrial life will bring his imagination to bear upon this side of the problem without forgetting the former. If he is one of the workpeople concerned, he will want to know something of the meaning of what he is doing, or to feel it is worth while, and to honour his implicit contract in the job; and if he is in charge of production, he will not expect people to give of their best unless he respects their personality, and gives their proper pride an opportunity to gain satisfaction.

All this may be very elementary, but it is just as much service in Toc H to live it out in the everyday affairs of the factory, the office, the mine or the mill as it is to give spare time to a good cause. It may be objected that these matters are the proper study of governments, of industrial consultants, of technical experts, of welfare officers, of works' chaplains, of any two dozen other societies besides Toc H, and well they may be; but neither the professional nor the official can achieve the desired end without the imaginative human touch in personal relationships. This is not second but first nature to Toc H.

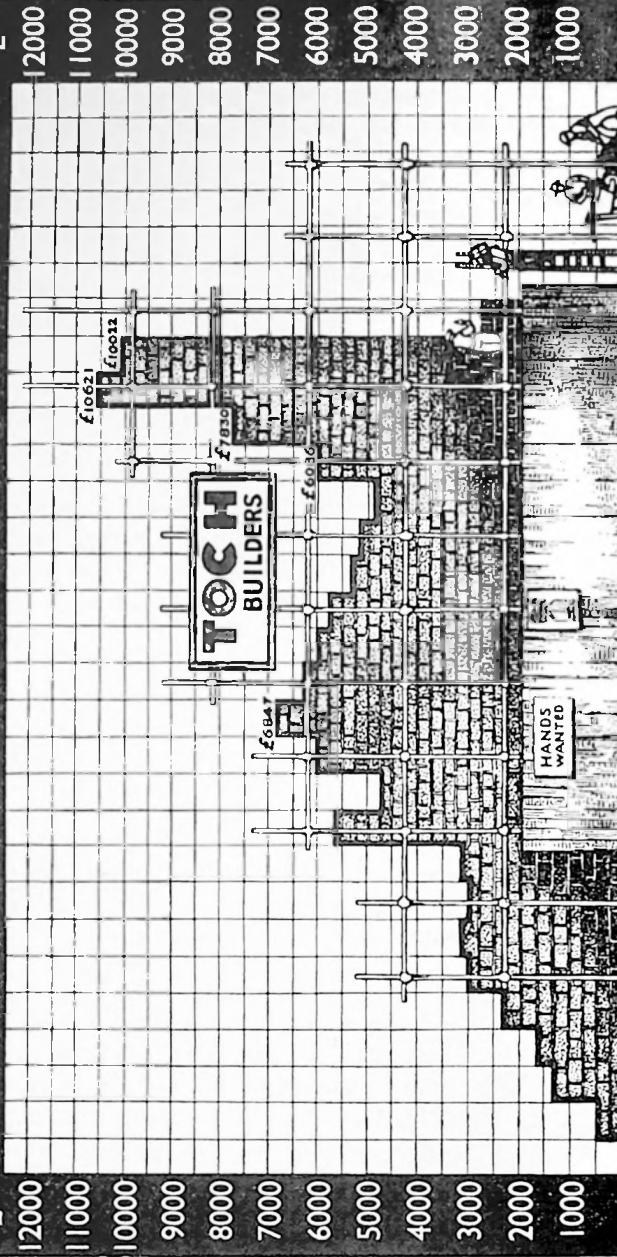
While only a proportion of members have any direct connection with industrial life, the total is quite considerable. There are many others who have some concern with the growing part of today's social activity which pertains to industrial development, and it is still growing fast; they will be just as keen to see it as healthy and sound a field of endeavour as good earth, fresh air, and honest human relationships make farming, or salt wind and water and good shipmates the following of the sea. The more natural older creative work can be equalled in satisfaction in many a modern job, and we can help the speedy recognition of that, and what it needs to make it so, for the best gift Toc H members can bring to such times as these is creative imagination. This is the very spirit of Toc H, and surely it is not without significance that in French this word *esprit* carries the sense together of lively imagination, wit, and courage.

TOM.

# TOC H BUILDERS PROGRESS — 1927-1948

£

£



1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949

# The 21st Year of Toc H Builders

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*Area Executives are being invited to help forward the plan outlined here, by thinking out ways and means, and by making help and advice available to those Branches and members who wish it.*

THE COMING OF AGE of Toc H Builders in 1949 offers us a valuable opportunity of weighing up the purpose of the Toc H Builder and his or her place in our movement. If the occasion does nothing else it will bring recognition of the reality of the contribution, financial and otherwise, which the Toc H Builder makes to the Family.

The term "Toc H Builder" was created in 1927 to give title to the new body of non-member supporters who were to be invited to pledge financial help in the building of Toc H.

From the commencement of the first half-year's effort, when 204 Builders gave £508, the scheme was an immediate success. Today, twenty-one years later, nearly four thousand Builders are joined with us in the task of building. In 1947 they gave the highest annual sum yet of £10,621, or nearly 22 per cent. of our income. At October 31 last year their total gifts to Toc H over the whole period of twenty-and-a-half years amounted to £109,605.

The pictorial graph printed opposite shows the progress through the years. It is worth noting the upward trend to 1938 and then the gradual drop to 1944 due to the war. In 1945 comes a remarkable increase until the record year of 1947. The decrease of £600 in 1948 was due to the loss of £1,023 from 484 Builders (100 by death) which was only partly compensated by the subscriptions of the 456 new Builders enrolled during the year.

The present number of Builders, from all parts of Britain and from overseas, is 3,930 and each one of them may be regarded as having an individual personal interest in Toc H.

They have been gathered together by the careful work of Marks, Branches and Lone Units, through Headquarters' efforts, B.B.C. Appeals, special functions and by much personal endeavour. Builders have no official recognition in the movement either in our Charter or by a place on our Teams or Executives (unless they are members, and 25 per cent. of our Builders *are* members), yet we have their generous and willing aid in hard cash and keen interest. Often they attend our festivals and many of them take an important share of responsibilities in the jobs of Toc H.

It would therefore be rash and idle to let this twenty-first year of the Toc H Builder pass without some effort to commemorate the occasion by something more than mere printed words and congratulatory speeches. As a movement, we shall wish to mark the Builders' year of 1949 with something tangible to show the way we have come and to serve as a milestone on the road to those who follow. Toc H has always welcomed the support of an ever widening circle of friends who see in its purpose something of their own personal ideals. The time is particularly appropriate for every Toc H member to make special efforts to add new friends to this important auxiliary force. Our thanks to Toc H Builders and our appreciation of their true value to the movement can best be expressed by our efforts to *double* their present numbers.

As Toc H membership is varied in purse, rank, education, politics and opinions, so will our Toc H Builders vary. The mixture is the essence of the fellowship; so with Builders, the mixture will be reflected in the amounts of individual subscriptions we receive. For example, there is a large reservoir, hardly tapped as yet, of men and women who can afford and will gladly contribute a ten shilling note every year if asked, there is a smaller field of friends able and willing to contribute £500 or more each year; in between is room for each individual choice and pocket. The great thing is the active interest of men and women; the value of the support lies mainly in the love which prompts it.

This is an effort which every member of Toc H and Toc H (Women's Section) can share. The only true way to enrol



Toc H Builders is by personal contact; other means may get the money but miss the man. The personal work of every member will ensure that our new Toc H Builders will have an immediate link with local Toc H work and can take part in local Toc H affairs as opportunity arises.

Tubby always regarded the Builders scheme as a different thing from a public appeal and he has told in the past how men's lives have been altered because someone asked them to give money to Toc H. That may still happen wherever in the name of Toc H members invite the help of people outside the movement.

We cannot now foresee what may be accomplished within the next twenty years, but we know that the work we do today, backed by thought and prayer, will increasingly help the future building of Toc H.

K. A. R.

## *The Elder Brethren*

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COOK.—On February 4, BERTRAM J. E. COOK, aged 66, a member of the R.H.H.I. Branch. Elected 3.12.'47.

DUNNETT.—On January 31, HOWARD COLEMAN DUNNETT, aged 43, the Overseas Secretary of Toc H. Elected 9.4.'29.

GARDNER.—On January 12, the Rev. EDWIN COURTNEY GARDNER, aged 66, a member of Castle Cary Branch and a former founder member of Cheltenham Branch (1922).

REDGRAVE.—In October, CLAUDE REDGRAVE, aged 65, a foundation member of Coventry Branch. Elected 1.12.'21.

SILLEM.—On January 27, Maj. Gen. Sir ARNOLD FREDERICK SILLEM, K.C.M.G., C.B., aged 83, formerly a Vice-President and Chairman of the Toc H Schools Section. Elected 1922 (Cavendish Association).

WHITE.—On January 26, Sir GEORGE ERNEST WHITE, J.P., aged 81, a member of Norwich Branch. Elected 20.3.'35.

### In Memoriam: Howard Dunnett

Howard was away from Headquarters before Christmas, we supposed at first with no grave sickness; he died on the last day of January of cancer. His passing spells a great personal loss to his friends and to our world-wide movement.

An early member of Hartley Wintney Branch, which was largely of his building, he joined the full-time staff at the end of 1933 and went to Bristol. In the following year he became Secretary of the Southern Area and served there for two years. After sharing in the Coming-of-Age Festival in 1936, he was chosen for a special mission overseas; he sailed that Autumn for South America, taking with him Barkis and Mrs. Baron as companions for the first part of his visit. Touching upon Toc H in Brazil and Uruguay, he settled down in Buenos Aires to his main task of helping Toc H in the Argentine as its Area Secretary. With Lako, T. B. Stewart, Patrick Moxey and others he found his place very quickly in a fine team. He helped to frame a constitution for Toc H Argentina; with his lively imagination he brought new life into the programme of the whole Area. Before he came home again in 1938 he had also visited Chile and given great encouragement to its isolated units. South America holds his work in high regard and himself in affectionate remembrance.

Once more in England, he spent some months in Sheffield and soon moved South to the Chilterns Area and what was then called the Southern Region. When the war broke out in 1939 he took charge of one of the earliest Services Clubs, at Bicester, and in 1940 moved on to help the beginnings of the biggest of these ventures, St. Stephen's Club in Westminster. Having done much to get that under way, he became Warden for two years of the Services Club at Cambridge. Then once more he was sent overseas on special duty from February to May, 1942, in the newly-founded Services Club in Reykjavik in Iceland. In October of the same year he moved to the Mediterranean, and in the next three years he and his wife made the Services Club at Alexandria famous as a real home to men fighting in the

Middle East. In 1945 he and Elizabeth followed the troops from North Africa to Italy and took part in a mobile campaign. On his return in 1946 he found himself again in Cambridge, this time as Secretary of the East Anglian Area.



His final move was in 1948 to Headquarters in London, where the difficult work of maintaining our life-lines with Toc H over the world, much weakened by the conditions of war, urgently needed to be repaired and extended. For this task Howard, with his varied experience at home and abroad, his quick sympathy and lively imagination, his orderly mind and great gift of personal letter-writing, seemed the best choice that could have been made. It will be hard to fill his place.

Of the man himself many will have tales to tell, for wherever he went he made friends. Let one of the closest of these, Brian Dickson, revive some happy moments:

"I have been looking through my photograph album for pictures of Howard, and what memories they recall! The early thirties when he was building up, in his own home town, the best unit of Toc H in our Area, and before Pat Leonard 'spotted' him for the Staff. Fun and games at Area rallies at Southampton and Winchester with Bill Evans and Bobs Ford. (There is a lovely snap, too, of Sir Arnold Sillem eating bacon and eggs at breakfast at Winchester barracks in 1934). Pilgrimages to 'Pop' in 1934 and '36 when Howard and I turned out the fire-picquet in the Old House, dressed up as *pompier*s for the occasion. A historic photo of him leading the Southern Area team to victory over the Poperinghe Juniors in the *Place de la Gare*, soccer in the first half, and rugger in the second! Another of him in very obvious holiday clothes at Bahia Lopez in Argentina and yet another in shorts, shaving, in '36.

"There are several taken at the Harrogate Conference in May '36 when he organized an impromptu Guest Night in the Harlow Manor Hotel on the Sunday night, roping in all the hotel guests, and curing more rheumatism in one night than the waters of that famous Spa could ever achieve. Then came the war and before long Howard fell in love, and I suggested that he and Elizabeth should spend their honeymoon at the Old Dungeon Ghyl Hotel in Langdale. Another Guest Night there, even on his honeymoon, and Mr. and Mrs. Bulman still talk about it and ask after Howard and his bride every time I go there.

"None of my snaps seem suitable for the JOURNAL, but they are all so typical of Howard and of his own interpretation of Toc H. He kept up an incredible correspondence with friends he'd made wherever he went. That is good measure of a man's worth, and not a bad way of building the Kingdom of God. To me he was a very good companion, full of 'gallant and high-hearted happiness'. He loved God and his fellow men, and his religion was full of laughter, as true religion should be. Our hearts go out to Elizabeth and his little son, Raymond, to his aged mother and his two sisters in their tragic loss. But with Howard 'all's well', we are sure."

### Arnold Sillem

Among Howard Dunnett's many friends in the Chiltern Area was Sir Arnold Sillem. Forty years Howard's senior, he died four days before him. Like many another stout supporter of Toc H, he entered it through the Cavendish Association, at its incorporation with our infant movement in 1922. He was an active Chairman of the old Toc H Schools Section, wise in his judgment, good to work with, always charming to know. He well deserved his place among our Vice-Presidents. At one time he was a familiar figure at Toc H meetings in his district but growing blindness of recent years had withdrawn him, to our sincere regret and his own.

## Multum in Parvo

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✠ THE ROLL OF HONOUR (*Liber Vitae*) of all members of Toc H who fell in World War II, is being compiled in preparation for placing in the North Aisle of All Hallows, when it is reopened this summer. It includes all those whose names were recorded in the war-time issues of the JOURNAL. Relatives and friends who have cause to think that there are omissions in this Roll are asked to send particulars, including the date of death, unit or corps, etc., to the General Secretary at Headquarters.

✠ TUBBY is expected home this month by oil-tanker from Abadan.

✠ SIR HERBERT STANLEY, Hon. Commissioner of Toc H in Southern Africa since 1931, has been appointed President in place of the late JAN HOFMEYR. The Vice-Chairman of the Southern African Executive, ALAN PATON, is to become Hon. Commissioner; he is visiting England this summer.

✠ Hearty congratulations to "OSSIE" JOSEPH, of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, who is to be married in Durban on Easter Monday to EDITH SWEETNAM.

✠ G. R. R. (GEOFF) MARTIN, formerly of the London Areas, Overseas Office and South Africa, will be returning in April to the Staff of Toc H as Overseas Secretary.

✠ The Rev. EDWARD C. SEAGER, of All Hallows and Mark III, has been appointed Rector of St. Mabyn, Bodmin, Cornwall.

✠ DUDLEY MATTHEWS, Hon. Australian Commissioner since 1946, completes his term this year and will be succeeded in 1950 by Brigadier FRED CHILTON.

✠ HAROLD GASCOIGNE, East Midlands Area Secretary, and his wife will be going to Australia, where he will become Area Secretary in Queensland.

✽ JACK DAVIES, Area Secretary in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, boards the *Mataroa* at Southampton on March 11 to travel with his wife to New Zealand. There he will take over from JACK SHAW, who will then be returning home.

✽ A. S. GREENACRE ("GREENO"), London Secretary, moves to the Southern Area in April.

✽ Padre S. B. CALVER, East Yorkshire Area, moves to London as Padre of Mark I at the end of April.

✽ E. PATRICK MONEY has succeeded Colonel K. R. STIRLING WYLLIE as Hon. Commissioner of Toc H in Argentina.

✽ Padre SHAUN HERRON is now in the Winnipeg Area.

✽ ALEC CHURCHER is travelling between and outwards from Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and will also be visiting Ceylon.

✽ THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will be observed this year as usual at 9 p.m. on December 11 and 12. The first Lamp will be lit and the Vigil maintained in Colombo, Ceylon.

✽ The next national FESTIVAL in London will be held in 1950, probably in October. Meanwhile there are various AREA FESTIVALS AND RALLIES being planned in other cities and towns.

✽ In the summer of 1951, in connection with THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN, arrangements will be made to welcome visiting members from overseas in various cities at a series of conferences and rallies, combined with sight-seeing tours.

✽ The UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is well known to many members. While it is not the policy of Toc H as one movement to apply for admission as an "affiliated organisation", it seems desirable to make clear the fact that there is no objection to any Branch of Toc H, which so decides, becoming a "Corporate Member" of UNA. It will be required to signify in writing its general agreement with the Objects of UNA and to pay an annual subscription of £1 or over. Many individual members are, of course, giving support to UNA Branches in their own localities.

# Talking of Current Affairs . . .

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THE Bureau of Current Affairs is a forbidding title; we call it B.C.A. for short, but even then it doesn't run as easily off the tongue as "ABCA" did. Yes, the Bureau is ABCA's civilian successor. Many people met us during their life in the Forces, but have lost touch again in civilian life. It is now three years since ABCA was demobbed, and this seems a fitting moment to tell Toc H members something about our work since then, for B.C.A. may now be said to have established itself in its own right, as a pioneer in popular education in current affairs.

Up or down the country, in clubs and pubs, in their homes or on street corners, people talk about current affairs. Some would say, they talk too much; and anyway, what's the point? What can *we* do about it? It is this sense of frustration that is so dangerous. Many years ago Thomas Masaryk said, "Democracy depends on discussion". Perhaps that sums up better than anything else the idea behind B.C.A.. If people can discuss world events intelligently, they will begin to feel some responsibility for them; if they can learn to listen to the other chap's point of view, that is more than half the battle. But a group of people are not likely to discuss current affairs for long without feeling the need of some outside help. This is where B.C.A. comes in.

The Bureau does not set up discussion groups of its own. It does not believe in remote control from London. It aims to help groups already in existence, wherever they meet, in clubs, community centres, factories or schools. It helps them in three main ways—by providing a cost-price service of publications; by an information service; and by running training courses for discussion group leaders. It also runs educational exhibitions, such as the Current Affairs Exhibition at Charing Cross last year.

Too many people shy away from the word education, remembering the rigid discipline of school, or even the com-

pulsory current affairs hour in the Army. Too many educators are convinced that nothing is educational unless it is dull. But people won't learn anything unless they learn it willingly, and they won't be willing unless they are interested. In this belief B.C.A. sets out to make education attractive, especially by visual aids to discussion. Pictorial appeal is not everything, but "one on the eye is worth two on the ear". If you can get people to stop and look, it is just possible that they may stop to think.



Another important point is that discussion is a *group* activity. There is no need to stress this to Toc H members. Whatever the subject under discussion, the common purpose of tackling a problem together draws people into a sense of community and teaches them tolerance and understanding. Often, too, the free and easy atmosphere of a really frank discussion may help them to solve their own private and personal problems.

To return to the three main services mentioned above, let us see how these ideas work out in practice. There are two regular series of publications. *Current Affairs* presents every fortnight a 16-20 page illustrated outline of some topic of the day, with one or two pages of hints on how to treat the subject for discussion. Recent issues include Mark Abrams' *British Standards of Living*, David Woodward on *The United Nations Third Assembly*, Robert Payne on *China*, and Denys Thompson on *The Importance of Leisure*.

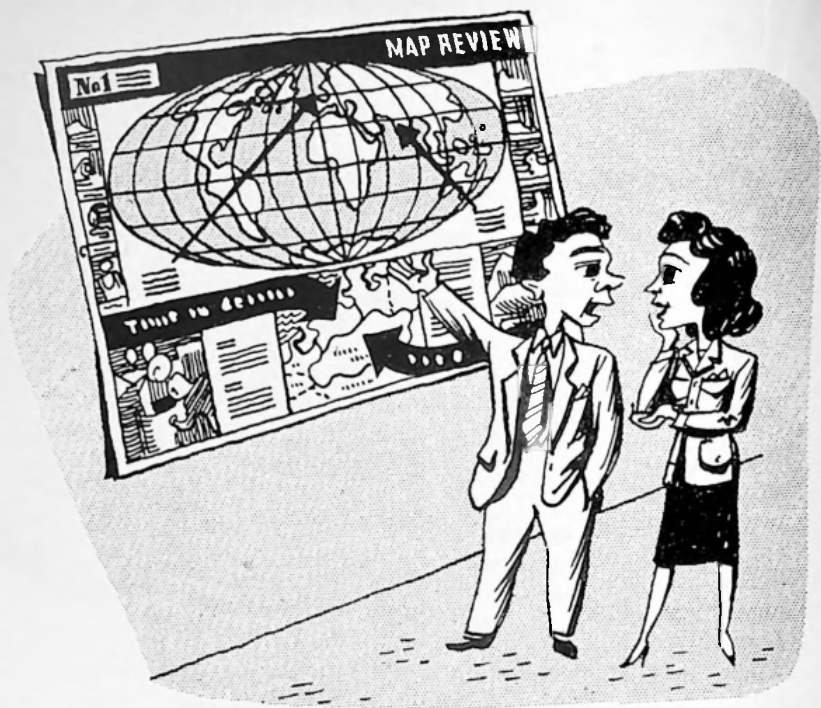




*Map Review*, B.C.A.'s other fortnightly series, is a 40 x 30 ins. wallsheet, presenting current affairs almost entirely in pictorial terms. Each issue takes some current problem, analyses it by means of maps, charts or photographs, and spotlights questions for discussion, with a brief written commentary. Subjects dealt with recently have been *The Marshall Plan*, *Colonial Development*, *Berlin*, *The Steel Industry*. Then there are the *Background Handbooks*, dealing more fully than *Current Affairs* with such subjects as economics, trade unionism or education; but the treatment is still simple and popular. A forthcoming issue that should interest readers is Professor Jessop's *Why Religion?* Finally, the bi-monthly *Discussion* has been devoted to accounts of discussion work in different fields, such as industry, politics, education, and discussion abroad.

Published material cannot always meet the needs of every individual discussion group; they may not know just where to find the facts they want. For this reason the B.C.A. information service is kept pretty busy, answering postal or telephone enquiries from all over the country. Visitors are always welcome in the reference library at 117 Piccadilly, where they will find a wide range of pamphlets, White Papers, and periodicals, as well as the usual reference books.

Last, but not least of the three, are the training courses for



*"One on the eye is worth two on the ear"*

discussion group leaders. There is a very high mortality rate among discussion groups, but so often failure could be turned into success if the group leader had learnt a few wrinkles, such as how *not* to hold the floor, and the art of encouraging the shy ones to express themselves, of getting people interested enough to come back next week. Four times a year B.C.A. holds its own residential courses. But if an organization can guarantee an audience and a couple of blackboards, the Training Officers are always willing to take discussion method to them. One or two-day courses and demonstrations are held all over the country, for youth clubs, training colleges, Army groups, Women's Institutes, U.N.A., different branches of industry, and many others.

How can B.C.A. afford to go in for all this? Many people assume we are Government subsidized, but this is not the case. When ABCA dropped the "A" it lost all dependence on the Government; it received a five-year grant from the Carnegie Trust to establish it as an independent, non-profit-making, educational body. The advantage of freedom from Government control is obvious. The importance of avoiding any party line is equally obvious. We try to tread the political tightrope, but we don't shirk controversial issues, even if these mean coming under fire from both sides. To bring such issues out into the open is the first duty of anyone who claims to educate public opinion.

N.B.—Information leaflets giving the full range and prices of publications, etc., mentioned above, can be obtained from The Bureau of Current Affairs, 117, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

## *Links with the Netherlands*

*GEORGE GRIFFITH, a Toc H member, here gives brief details of a movement that has grown from the many friendships formed in this country by Dutchmen during their temporary exile from Holland.*

WHILE THE INITIALS A.N.S.A. may at present convey little meaning to many, they stand for a young and flourishing international movement. The Anglo-Netherlands Sports Association, to give its full title, was formed at the end of the war to perpetuate the friendships made in England between Dutch exiles and our own people.

After the Netherlands had been liberated and our 'visitors' had returned to their own homeland it was felt the bonds forged during the dark days were too good to be lightly discarded and, despite the intervening sea, might well become a groundwork in more peaceful times for an alliance of friendship between the two peoples.

Sport and athletic interests, with the consequent hospitality, had been the medium through which many of the original friendships were begun and to these has now been added Art and Culture, giving the post-war movement a wider appeal. Branches have been formed in both countries each being given

a link with an 'opposite number' across the North Sea. Thus, Birmingham is linked to The Hague, Derby to Haarlem, Hull to Rotterdam, Mitcham to Hengelo (O), and so on. Already the full list of places is too long to print here.

Plans are now being made to organise a series of sports, athletic, choral and band contests in England and Holland, and much of their success in this country will depend on the ability to secure hospitality to accommodate the Dutch visitors taking part. What is required are offers of free bed and breakfast accommodation from would-be hosts. Difficulties due to language are not likely to arise as nearly all the visitors will be found to have a working knowledge of English. Those interested are asked to write direct to: Hon. General Secretary, J. W. YAPP, 60, Streatham Road, Mitcham, Surrey.

## "Mitting"

YES, it can be done after all. And what's more, I've just seen it done before my very eyes.

About a year ago I developed the Clown theme a little further in discussing Charlie Chaplin's "Monsieur Verdoux". In the course of that I noted how difficult it was to clown some abstract viewpoint of *Homo Sapiens* (sic), and mentioned the American, James Thurber, as one of the few who have pulled it off, in his cunning and absurd studies of modern Psychological Man.

Since then I've wondered many a time whether it would be possible to catch the subtle mercury of J. T's clownery, translate it into a film strip, and project it on to a two dimensional screen.

"Yes" is the answer, and the man who has achieved it is the man who, I think, will soon be recognised as the spiritual successor of Charlie, in particular, and of the World's Great Clowns in general.

The film, if you haven't already guessed it, is "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", and the clown, Danny Kaye.



*Danny Kaye, in "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"*

I don't attempt to describe the film; for if you've seen it there's no need, and if you haven't it's a waste of time. All I want is to say something as between Danny and myself, in the belief that what applies to me applies to you as well.

Of course, Danny is brilliant, gifted, versatile; but all that

is in the periphery. The spindle round which his art revolves is firmly set. It is his total ordinariness. He is just a perfectly straightforward, undenominational, twentieth century Young Man. He might be any man. He might be me or you. He does just what you or I might do in the same set of circumstances, and thinks what we might think; but all deftly heightened and cartooned. Time and again in the midst of the film I could have stood up and cried, "Cheer up, Walter, I'm afflicted like yourself!"

If I may make bold to coin a new verb, mitting is common to us all. To a greater or less degree every one of us weaves a web of phantasy in his own imagination, with himself at the centre, as an escape from the sober realities of life. And every one of us has experienced the discomfort of hitting a hard concrete situation parallel to a phantastic one, and discovering that the real 'me' won't conform to the phantasy 'me'.

The verb 'to mitt' lends itself to conjugation:—I mitt (you're telling me), thou mittest (I'm telling thee), Yea, and so do he and she (neither sex has a corner in it). And after all, if not over-indulged, it has its virtue. Where would all the romance and poetry of the world be without it? And apart from such, life would be indeed a drab affair!

Mitting may also have more material results. I remember the occasion when Archimedes, spotting the Principle of Displacement, leapt from his bath, and did the quarter-mile down the High Street in full cry, just one minute and nothing else at all. Well, perhaps you haven't heard the incident of the previous morning. A. had been an unconscionably long time in the bathroom, and when he finally hit the kitchen for breakfast, his wife had some words to say.

"Archie, do you realise you spent half-an-hour in front of that shaving mirror of yours?"

"Yes, my dear, I was taking a little time for reflection."

Mirror-exercise, both outward and inward, is a healthy thing, provided it is not overdone, and the reflection gained is reasonably sincere. All good clowns are mirrors. Danny is an excellent clown. In "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" there are ninety minutes of uproarious laughter and fine material for subsequent reflection into the bargain.



*Volunteer workers hold a Toc H Guest Night*

## *Volunteer Agricultural Camp Sevenoaks, 1949*

*In the pages of the JOURNAL, last November, was told the story of an experiment in Agricultural Service undertaken by Toc H members, sponsored by Kent Area Executive and the Sevenoaks District Team. For many who took part the experience was a revelation of the life and spirit of Toc H. Now comes news of plans for a more ambitious effort this year. It will be of great encouragement to the planners if the list of Volunteers grows quickly; so, having read, please act.*

TOC H has been able to secure the use of this camp from September 3-17 and plans are being drawn up for using the camp not only as an opportunity of agricultural service but also for Toc H conference purposes, if a sufficient number of Toc H volunteers can be found to fill the camp.

Further particulars of this project will be published in future issues of the JOURNAL, but meanwhile Toc H men and women members wishing to join in this year's camp are invited to send their names at once to ARCHIE SMITH, the Jobmaster of Sevenoaks Branch, at 49 London Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

The cost of the camp will be £1 1s. od. per week, full board, and earnings will be at the usual rate of approximately 1s. 5d. per hour. There is room on the camp for seventy men and women. Most of the sleeping accommodation will be in huts but there will probably be a few tents.

This effort is an extension of last year's experiment and we hope that those sharing in the grand fellowship of that camp will be able to join us again this year.

Apart from the opportunity of helping with the harvest we shall be able to share together in what promises to be a thrilling programme of Toc H activities. The Administrator warmly commends this appeal and is giving it his active support.

Bookings may be made for whole or part of the time.  
*Join now!*

JOHN JONES.

## *Lending a Hand*

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*In endorsement of the Voluntary Agricultural Camp plan, here is one man's story, of a 'solo' effort made last year and told by SID STOCKDEN of Corsham Branch.*

"THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE are free" and one even gets paid for some of them, as I and thousands of others found out this summer. Having filled in the necessary forms and paid my eight bob deposit I arrived, complete with gum boots and battledress, at Lydney Town over Severn bridge. Alone, I was confronted by a notice telling of transport leaving for the Volunteer Agricultural Camp.

A seven mile ride, jolting back memories of life in the Forces, brings us to our camp in the Forest of Dean. Billets are huts in an old P.O.W. Camp, still complete with barbed wire. Three blankets and a pillow are handed to each of us and we are shown to our huts. To three 'old sweats' there is now one urgent job to be done, and in less than five minutes three neat beds are 'down' and the owners thereof are in process of getting to know one another.

Brian and John are boyhood pals, and I hear their reminiscences and tell them my story. Brian, demobbed just a year, comes via India and London Polytechnic; John via South Africa and a builder's office, and I from service in Egypt and lately a dispensary in a Wiltshire town.

An evening stroll brings us to the small town of Coleford



where, after sampling the local brew, we find the only entertainment is a Saturday night dance in the Town Hall. Finding our way 'home' after dark is quite an adventure and on the way, discussions on all sorts of subjects (including the way), take place. Back in time for supper and an early turn-in for tomorrow we *work*.

Up again at 6 a.m., wakened by the mighty clanging of a bell; breakfast, a scramble for our allotted tasks and away by



*"Everything stops for tea, brought by the farmer's daughter"*

7 a.m. We rub the sleep from our eyes as we trundle through the forest and laugh at the sheep jumping nimbly off the road as we pass. After over an hour's journey we arrive at a farm, and the smiling farmer shows us into a potato field. "Six and a half acres," says Farmer Hanby, "Ten tons to the acre and if the weather holds out we'll finish it this week".

Now to business. Our farmer steps out the lengths, each so many paces, and then, with a roar, the tractor comes over the hill, and spins out a long line of potatoes. The first row is now tackled and although our backs soon begin to ache, brains begin to work and we make up little teams of two, talking as we work.

Why did we come here? What made us think of a holiday like this? The students, mostly to keep themselves during vacation, for parent's pockets are not bottomless. The continental folk to get a look at England and learn English 'as she is spoke'. The rest of us to enjoy, some unknowingly, 'fellowship in service'. Too old at forty? Look at old Harry there, nearly fifty and beginning to age, but he can pull his weight and hoe his row with the best of us.

Here comes Elizabeth from Switzerland; she speaks English well, in addition to French, German and Italian and doesn't look much more than twenty, her face tanned and hair bleached by the sun. She has a withered leg but does not dare to suggest she is handicapped.

Who threw that spud? You'll hear a mighty laugh, and on looking round you'll see Knud, from Denmark—a veritable 'great dane' with the briefest of shorts. Speak to him and he'll look at his pal who knows more English and together they will laughingly try to tell you of Denmark. Nearby is Pierre, later known as 'Toujours l'Amour' for obvious reasons, but just now busily engaged in filling a sack.

Whom have we here? Two girls in uniform; A.T.S., giving up their precious leave to 'lend a hand'. A little shy at first, until they're drawn into the family circle, and soon after that a rich brogue and a Liverpudlian accent add their share to the buzz of chatter. Then there is Aila, clerk in a London hospital and Josephine, who never seems to get dirty, and young Audrey from Liverpool, who laughingly shows you her kid brothers' boots she brought to work in.

Four o'clock and a break. Everything stops for tea and a plate of sandwiches brought out to us by the farmer's daughter. Then a few more sacks to fill and we're off once more on the long ride back, singing all the way.

Ever tried hoeing roots on a hillside? High up over Severn bridge we worked, and hard work it was too, but worth it to be able to stretch from time to time and enjoy the view. Tired at night, but not too tired for a walk to the 'local' and more talk and discussions and songs.

Our week's labours ended, we held a winding-up dance



*"The tractor spins out a long line of potatoes"*

before dispersing to our homes on the morrow. A look at the exchequer reveals that we have nearly as much in hand as when we started out. Like Toc H, these V.A. camps are 'human zoos' and are doing a grand job; why don't *you* lend a hand next year? Too old at forty did you say? Snap out of it chaps! I'm forty-two, and father of a couple of teenagers.

S. S.

### *A tragic true Story*

Last month JOSEF JOSTEN, a Czech member of Toc H, told briefly in these pages the story of his country's fate. He has now published it in full detail in a fascinating book, *Oh my Country* (Latimer House 12s. 6d.). It is a story of Communist bad faith, organised with great skill and with the threat of overwhelming force, which is not surpassed by anything in Hitler's record. Josef Josten worked very closely throughout the tragedy with the two heroes of his country's democracy, President Benes and Jan Masaryk, now both dead, and presents a fine portrait of them. The story of his own two escapes to England, first from the Nazis, then from the Communists, is thrilling and very modestly told.

## Service is 'News'

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*A recent article by the Administrator, (see January JOURNAL) discussed the position of voluntary service to the community in the Social Service State. Striking confirmation has since appeared in a national newspaper and this article, written in light-hearted vein, is reprinted by kind permission of the Editor of "Reynolds News".*

ONE of the strangest objections to social planning is that it limits the sphere of voluntary effort. There's an idea going round that the more the State does to ameliorate social conditions, the less good works there are for the individual to do. Funny idea. It suggests that we've got so near perfection, individually and collectively, that we don't know what to do next. At first, it looks like a lavish compliment to the Government. For it virtually says they've built Utopia.

On second thoughts, it may merely demonstrate a deplorable lack of enterprise on the part of those who feel frustrated in their efforts to make themselves useful because everything they can think of has already been done. It is certainly irritating for a public-spirited idealist who, having resolved to leave the world better than he found it, finds the State is always two jumps ahead of him and it's as much as he can do to leave the world as it is. It is doubtless annoying for the knight errant who, every time he sets out to rescue a distressed damsel, arrives to find the dragon is officially dead and the girl has gone off with a bureaucrat. It may be disappointing to the kindly soul who, having decided to go through life helping lame dogs over stiles and cheering sorrowful hearts with kind words, finds that all the dogs have been rounded up into Dogs' Homes and that there are no kind words left unfamiliarised by Official Reports and Registration Forms, And no doubt we shall shortly hear that the Boy Scout Movement has been disbanded because the ever-widening scope of Statutory Benevolence is making it impossible for them to find One Good Deed a Day that the Government has not already done.

During the recent "Friday Forum" a schoolmaster made the usual protest against "too much planning and too little

voluntary spirit". To which Sir Stafford Cripps replied that during the last two years there had been more voluntary co-operation between the two sides of industry than ever before in our history. This would suggest at least one field for voluntary effort: to prove there are other motives besides the profit motive. Shortly after that there was a broadcast by a member of Toc H who said that in his town they found enough to do for needy people to fill all their evenings, plus week-ends. As one example he said they had just painted, whitewashed and repaired the cottage of an old woman who'd been taken to hospital, as a surprise for her when she came home. Finally, Lord Beveridge, in his report—*Voluntary Action: A Report on Methods of Social Advance*, answers the question, "What is there left for philanthropy to do in a Social Service State?" According to him there's enough to keep an army of volunteers permanently doing spare-time doings that legislation or money can't do, such as looking after lonely people, entertaining the sick and blind, helping housewives with large families, etc., etc., and volunteers are badly needed. It would almost appear that the only people whose voluntary efforts are frustrated by the State are those who lack both effort and vol.

Here, then, is a great opportunity for advocates of Individual Enterprise to show how enterprising individuals can be. Let them, and all those ambitions lie in the direction of spreading sweetness and light, set about to discover some good deed that even a Labour Government hasn't yet performed. Search the streets for some stray cat as yet unstroked by the Home Office; seek some rheumatically neighbour's potato-patch as yet undug by the secret service branch of the Ministry of Agriculture. Find some sick person whose pillow, by some oversight, is still unsmoothed by Aneurin's prowling ministers of mercy; some infant playing in the gutter with its nose as yet unwiped by the Board of Education. Bestir thyself, thou State-frustrated philanthropist! See if you can beat the Government to it! And if you can't find anything to do, I shall begin to suspect that your objection to increasing social legislation is (to borrow a phrase) purely doctrinaire.

YAFFLE.



## OVERSEAS AREAS AND BRANCHES OF T.O.C.H. MARCH, 1949.

OVERSEAS SECRETARY: c/o 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1.  
(Victoria 0354).

*Letters for Branch Secretaries should be addressed c/o THE AREA SECRETARY or other officer concerned. The year of recognition of the Branches and tenure of status are shown in brackets.*

H.C. = HONORARY COMMISSIONER. H.A.S. = HON. AREA SECRETARY.

ARGENTINA: H.C.: E. P. Moxey, Moxey Savon Argentina, Reconquista 336, Buenos Aires. H.S.: c/o Toc H Centre, Chacabuco 723, Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires--Shackleton (23); Lomas de Zamora (38); Montevideo (Uruguay) (45); Quilmes (42); William C. Morris (46-49).

AUSTRALIA: H.Aust.C.: Dudley Mathews, O.B.E. H.Aust.S.: R. J. L. Knight, Box 1202-K, G.P.O., Adelaide, South Australia. Headquarters: 40, Pirie St., Adelaide, South Australia (C. 7577).

NEW SOUTH WALES: A.S.: C. F. Reeve, Toc H, Daking House, Rawson Place, Sydney (M.A. 4175). Cammery (47); Chatswood (38-50); Lithgow (47); Newcastle (27-50); Parramatta (40-50); Sydney (31-50); Turrumurra (47).

QUEENSLAND: H.A.S.: W. H. Scott, Toc H, Box 351E, G.P.O. Brisbane. Brisbane (29); Ipswich (41); Maryborough (35); Pittsworth (39); Rockhampton (39); Toowoomba (39).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: A.P.: Rev. K. G. Bloxham. H.A.S.: E. Dowling, c/o Toc H, Box 1202-K, G.P.O., Adelaide. Adelaide Central (27); Grange (34); Mitcham (38); Payneham (29); Thebarton (37); Unley (30); Woodville (39); Victor Harbour (38).

TASMANIA: A.S.: L. E. LeMaitre. H.A.S.: J. L. Hull, 15, Mount Stuart Rd., North Hobart (6509). Devonport (39-50); Hobart (29-50); Launceston (33); Moonah (36-50); Ulverstone (34-50).

VICTORIA: A.S.: L. E. LeMaitre, Toc H, 476, Collins St., Melbourne, C.I. (M.U. 4121). Belmont (39); Brunswick (29-49); Deepdene (47); Essendon (35); Geelong City (32); Geelong West (37); Macdonald (47); Melbourne Central (47); Newtown and Chilwell (46); Ocean Grove (47); Service (47); Warrnambool (31).

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CANADA: EASTERN CANADA REGION: Hon. Reg. Administrator: Prof. H. Wasteneys, 20, Howland Avenue, Toronto, 4, Ont. Sec.: Rev. F. H. Shaw. House: Mark II (Can.), 614, Huron St., Toronto, 5, Ont. (Kl. 8078). Guelph (35); Huron (Toronto) (38); Parkdale (Toronto) (39); Montreal (29); St. Lambert (Montreal) (32); Toronto (25); York (Toronto) (32).

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*B.A.O.R.L. Clubs:* Bad Salzuflen, Fallingb. Hotel, Göttingen, Lubbecke, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Bad Oeynhausen, Flildesheim.

*MIDDLE EAST: Commissioner:* G. F. Coleman-Cross, H.Q., Toc H, Fanara, M.E.L.F.

*MALTA: Warden:* B. F. Miles, Toc H, 60, Tigne St., Sliema, Malta, G.C.  
*FAR EAST: Trav. Sec.:* Gordon Lawes, Talbot House, Scotts Road, Singapore. *Club Warden:* J. R. Stevens, Talbot House, 50, Macdonnell Rd., Hong Kong.

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*SINGAPORE:* M. G. Foster, C.E.O.(L), R.N., H.M. Naval Base, Singapore, S.S. *GIBRALTAR:* J. E. Ruse, 6, North Pavilion Road, Gibraltar.

*CAPE TOWN:* Rev. C. Strong, Missions to Seamen, Alfred St., Cape Town.

### *Next Month's Number*

Included in the contents of the April issue of the Journal will be the Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of Toc H. Being a Double Number, there will be no issue of the Journal for the month of August, following our usual practice.